

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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| Applicant(s): AOKI et al.   | Atty. Dkt.: 26DT-005-CON |
| Serial No.: Unknown   | Group Art Unit:          |
| Filed: Concurrently herewith  | Examiner:                |
| Title: FUEL TANK WELDING JOINT<br>AND MANUFACTURING<br>METHOD THEREOF |                          |

Date: March 2, 2004

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
Arlington, VA 22202

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and consider the appended remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Listing of Claims** begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.